GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2785
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
PASSING OF SECRET INFORMATION
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cyber Crime Branch of Mumbai Police has arrested an employee of Tata Group of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) under I.T. Act while he was passing important secret information to Reliance Communication on the line of film Corporate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty persons in this regard; and

(d) the names of the shareholders in BSNL alongwith the percentage of their holdings in BSNL?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is 100% Government Company however as far as VSNL (Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited) is concerned the response to the question above is as follows:

(a) On 7th February, 2007 VSNL filed a Police Complaint with Dadar Police Station at Mumbai under section 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 against one of its employee Mr. Prashant Indulkar suspecting that certain confidential information residing in VSNL Computer Resource might have been given by him to outsiders. Mr. Prashant Indulkar was working as personal assistant to the then Executive Director of the Company.

It is submitted that in the Police Complaint as above, VNSL has not suspected about information being passed by Mr. Indulkar to any particular person or company. It is also submitted that, the police is investigating the matter.

(b) It is not possible to give details of all the confidential information which might have been passed by Mr. Prashant Indulkar. In the Police Complaint, however, VSNL has stated that, Mr. Indulkar might have passed information relating to highly confidential document which could have been the basis of the news report in Economic Times dated 12th January, 2007 viz "Orascom, VSNL to tie up for cable biz" as also the news report in Economic Times dated 15th January, 2007 viz "Tata call on Lanka's Suntel", etc.

(c) VSNL is a disinvested Company (run by TATA management) and Government is having only 26.12% stakes in VSNL at present, therefore action against Mr. Indulkar is being taken by TATA's only.

(d) The details of shareholding in VSNL as on 31st July, 2007 is as follows:

Share Holder	Percentage Holding(%)
Government of India	26.12
Company of Tata Group	50.11
Financial Institutions & Mutual Funds	1.44
Insurance Companies	11.42
Foreign Institutional Investors	2.02
Individuals and Companies	2.73
American Depository Receipts	6.16
Total	100.00